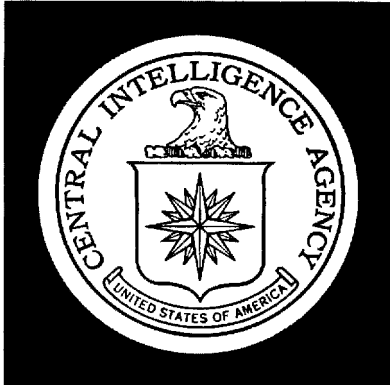


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Nationalist China - USSR: The Chinese Nationalists show growing interest in developing contacts with the Soviet Union.

President Chiang Kai-shek apparently is trying to exploit Soviet hostility toward Maoist China and Moscow's consequent willingness to engage in at least semiofficial contacts with the Nationalist Government. He apparently also hopes to dramatize Peking's isolation and to enhance the Nationalists' international position. The Chinese Nationalists presumably believe that a display of Soviet interest in such contacts might discourage non-Communist governments from recognizing Communist China. Taipei probably also anticipates that these dealings with the Soviets will have a favorable impact on the annual votes in the UN General Assembly on the China representation question.

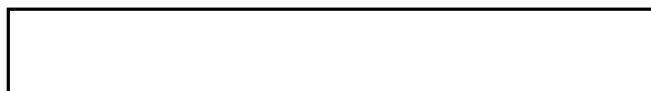
Over the past year President Chiang has been seeking to increase his freedom of maneuver. His initial overture toward Moscow took the form of a directive to tone down Taiwan's propaganda attacks against the USSR. This was followed by the visit to Taiwan of a Soviet journalist who has been used by Moscow on previous occasions as a semiofficial emissary. A member of Taiwan's National Assembly, who is on the University of Pennsylvania faculty, visited the USSR last fall ostensibly as a member of an American delegation to a technical conference.



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NOTE

【USSR: The Soviet naval force of some 20 ships and submarines that entered the North Atlantic on 25 March was sighted south of Iceland late yesterday. The force includes most of the major surface warships in the Northern Fleet. The present movement of this force suggests some type of antisubmarine exercise in the Atlantic in the next few weeks. There is no evidence to suggest these ships are headed for Vladivostok.

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